

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

**ITEM 3**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED ORDER ON THE GENERAL WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER-RELATED WASTES

**DISCUSSION**

Staff developed General Waste Discharge Requirements for Disaster-Related Wastes (Disaster Debris Order). The Disaster Debris Order becomes effective in the event of an emergency and includes requirements for temporary and permanent disposal of the material. The discharger must submit a Notice of Intent to inform the Regional Board of the activity. Temporary staging areas must be restored to prior conditions after use and a Notice of Termination must be filed with the Regional Water Board. For permanent disposal (at a landfill), the landfill must submit a revised report of waste discharge (ROWD) after disposal efforts are complete to formally recognize the material accepted at the facility. All temporary and permanent disposal activities require best management practices to prevent impacts to water quality and the environment. The requirements largely match those already required in the regional waivers.

**POLICY ISSUE**

This item is the Disaster Debris Order. The issuance of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) prior to cleanup of disaster-related wastes requires time that may significantly impede cleanup, which would likely increase the threat to public health and the environment. Under emergency or disaster conditions, there is usually not time for those performing cleanup of disaster-related wastes to prepare a formal ROWD, and for the Regional Board to prescribe new WDRs or to revise existing WDRs. As wildfires and other disasters increase in size and cross regional boundaries, it is critical this issue be considered from a statewide approach, rather than on a region-by-region basis. Therefore, staff developed a statewide order for disposal of debris from catastrophic events.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

Yes. All regions have existing waivers in place. The regions would transition to use the Disaster Debris Order as those waivers expire.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends adopting the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Disaster-Related Wastes in order to provide statewide consistency, remove nuances between regions, and eliminate the 5-year expiration date inherent with a waiver.